

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 02900 300809Z
ACTION EA-12

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-----102541 300836Z /12
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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 603

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STADIS//////////

EA ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE FOR SINGAPORE

1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE POSITION IN SINGAPORE WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH DURING RECENT HEARINGS ON FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BUDGET BEFORE AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. WE HEAR THAT COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESSED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POSITION AND THAT FAS ADMINISTRATOR ENDORSED IT. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT CAN SUPPLY REGARDING THIS TESTIMONY.

2. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, ESTABLISHING AGATT POSITION UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD REQUIRE ELIMINATION OF ONE EXISTING AMERICAN POSITION (OR MORE IF ATTACHE DEMANDS A SECRETARY) TO STAY WITHIN SINGAPORE-IMPOSED CEILING. IF ONE OR MORE POSITIONS BECOME AVAILABLE AS RESULT OF CHANGES IN COMPLEMENTS OF USG OFFICES ALREADY HERE, DEPARTMENT WILL CERTAINLY WANT TO TAKE CLOSE LOOK AT COMPETING PROPOSALS FOR FILLING THOSE

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POSITIONS--INCLUDING SOME URGENT REQUIREMENTS WHICH EMBASSY ITSELF WILL WANT TO PUT FORWARD--AND WEIGH THESE PROPOSALS AGAINST ALTERNATIVE OF KEEPING POSITIONS AT LEAST EMPORARILY VACANT AS ECONOMY MEASURE.

3. IN ASSESSING ANY FAS REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT

OF AN AGATT POSITION HERE, DEPARTMENT MIGHT WANT
TO NOTE THAT THERE ARE ALREADY ESTABLISHED IN SINGAPORE
A WHEAT ASSOCIATES OFFICE WITH TWO AMERICAN EMPLOYEES,
A FEED GRAINS COUNCIL OFFICE WITH ONE AMERICAN AND A POULTRY
AND EGG INSTITUTE OFFICE WITH ONE PART-TIME AMERICAN. ALL
OF THESE OFFICES ARE APPARENTLY FUNDED IN LARGE PART BY DE-
PARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND ALL RECEIVE SOME EMBASSY ADMINIS-
TRATIVE SUPPORT. FAS IS ALSO MOVING TO ESTABLISH A DIRECT-HIRE
LOCAL POSITION, WHICH WOULD BE ON EMBASSY PAYROLL ALTHOUGH
INCUMBENT WOULD BE PHYSICALLY LOCATED AT FEED GRAINS COUNCIL
OFFICE.

INGRAHAM

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